

Dan Inouye

U.S. SENATOR FROM HAWAII



SENATE APPROVES NEARLY \$74 MILLION FOR TRANSPORTATION, ANTI-DRUG, AND HOUSING INITIATIVES IN HAWAII

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON — U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye announced today that Hawaii would receive nearly \$74 million for transportation, anti-drug, and housing initiatives under a funding measure approved by the Senate.

“As an island state, Hawaii is extremely dependent on its transportation infrastructure for its well-being,” Senator Inouye said. “The projects included in this legislation will solidify our transportation infrastructure by air, land, and sea. Other Hawaii-related initiatives will strengthen federal, State, and local coordination in the fight against illegal drugs, support our communities, and help to increase the availability of affordable housing. The combined impact of these projects will make for a better Hawaii.”

The funds for the Hawaii initiatives are part of the Transportation, Treasury, Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, the District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies Appropriations Bill for Fiscal Year 2006 that the Senate approved last night by a vote of 93 to 1. The measure now advances to a House-Senate conference committee to resolve differences in the House and Senate versions of the bill.

Funding for highway and other transportation-related programs will be determined during conference negotiations. Additional funding authority is expected to be provided through the Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users legislation currently pending before a House-Senate conference. This would include the designation of the Honolulu Rapid Transit Project.

After conferees craft the final version of the appropriations measure, it will advance to both the House and Senate for approval, and then sent to the President to sign into law.

The following are the Hawaii-related initiatives:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Federal Transit Administration Formula Funds *\$31.91 million*

These funds are used to support and maintain the City and County of Honolulu's bus system, including the purchase of replacement buses and Handi-vans, and the construction of transit centers.

Honolulu Bus and Bus Facilities *\$8 million*

This appropriation would go to the City and County of Honolulu Department of Transportation Services. This agency operates the 17th largest bus transit agency in the United States, and has one of the highest per capita bus ridership ratios in the nation. The funds will improve the service and reliability of the City's fleet of 525 buses, which travel approximately 21.5 million route miles per year.

Hawaii Ferry Funds *\$5.2 million*

This is Hawaii's share of an allocation that is equally divided between Hawaii and Alaska for capital investments in ferry infrastructure or vessels, and will support Oahu's renewed interest in a ferry system from West Oahu to Honolulu.

Rural Bus Program *\$5 million*

These funds would be used by Hawaii, Maui, and Kauai counties to purchase buses to expand routes and increase the frequency of service throughout the neighbor islands. The funds may also be used to provide bus shelters, transit benches, and upgrades to comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Essential Air Service *\$2.175 million*

This appropriation would be used to fully fund the continuation of the Essential Air Service program, which provides subsidies to air carriers serving the small airports that are vital links to the remote communities of Hana, Kalaupapa, and Kamuela. Hana will receive \$945,029; Kalaupapa, \$745,773; and Kamuela, \$483,982.

Kona Air Traffic Control Tower *\$2 million*

This earmark would be used by the Federal Aviation Administration and the State's Airports Administration to complete the site selection, planning, and design of a new

125-foot air traffic control tower that would replace the existing 50-foot tower at Kona International Airport on the Island of Hawaii. The Kona Air Traffic Control Tower was built by the State more than 30 years ago. The replacement of this tower will improve visibility safety at the Kona Airport.

Lihue Tower

\$2 million

This funding would be used to complete the site selection, design, and planning of a new air traffic control tower at Kauai's Lihue Airport with adequate height to observe the runways. The existing tower was built more than 30 years ago, before jetliners served the Island of Kauai. Since the construction of the tower, the runway has been extended and a new instrument landing runway constructed, which makes it difficult to see the primary instrument runway.

Alien Species Action Plan

\$1.6 million

This appropriation would be used to continue the implementation of the federal Alien Species Action Plan (ASAP) governing the State of Hawaii and air carriers serving Hawaii to prevent the introduction of alien species through aircraft that fly to Hawaii. Under the ASAP, aircraft and cargo must be inspected and cleared of alien species upon arrival. The ASAP currently affects Kahului Airport on the Island of Maui, the only airport in the nation subject to these rigorous inspection requirements.

Hilo Air Traffic Control Tower Roof Replacement

\$50,000

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

HAWAII High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA)

\$2.5 million

This appropriation continues the HIDTA program, which serves as a federal, State, and local coordination umbrella for counter-drug efforts in Hawaii. Hawaii HIDTA initiatives include a Joint Investigative Support and Intelligence Center, Hawaii Airport Task Force, and increased intelligence operations on the Islands of Hawaii and Kauai, which have helped make a difference in the fight against crystal methamphetamine statewide.

Hawaii IRS Office Staffing

At Senator Inouye's request, language was included that directs the Internal Revenue Service to maintain fully staffed positions in each of the Taxpayer Advocate Service Centers for Hawaii and Alaska, including a Collection Technical Adviser and an Examination Technical Adviser, in addition to the current

complement of office staff. The report language is necessary to address the difficulties experienced by Hawaii and Alaska taxpayers in receiving services from the U.S. mainland and tax assistance from the national toll-free line.

DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Native Hawaiian Housing Block Grants Project, Hawaii State \$8.8 million

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) is working to increase the affordable housing inventory on Hawaiian homelands to meet the demand for housing for low-income Native Hawaiian families. DHHL is seeking to enhance the supply of affordable housing units through the construction of infrastructure improvements, single-family, multi-family, rent-to-own, and rental housing.

Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions \$1.5 million

This appropriation is half of the \$3 million provided through the HUD Community Development Fund to support both Alaska Native Serving Institutions and Native Hawaiian Serving Institutions in their efforts to address community development needs in their localities, including neighborhood revitalization, housing, and economic development, principally for persons of low or moderate income.

Native Hawaiian Housing Loan Guarantee Fund Program \$1 million

These funds in credit subsidy will support loan-guarantee authority of \$37,403,000, which is the same level provided in Fiscal Year 2005. The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) intends to utilize the loan program as an institutional borrower to construct houses for purchase by low-income borrowers by way of direct loans from DHHL.

Children's Justice Center Facility for Abused Children Renovation and Furnishing Project

\$300,000

This earmark will be used to renovate a building owned by the Children's Justice Center Foundation to provide a homelike setting for abused children and workspace for agencies that work with abused children. The Children's Justice Center will co-locate federal, State, county, and nonprofit agencies to collaboratively provide comprehensive services to abused children on the Island of Oahu. Services include investigative interviews and medical, counseling, legal and support services for victims and their support networks. Honolulu is the only major U.S. city without such a co-located center. The Children's Justice Center is needed to coordinate services to ensure that abused children receive necessary assistance.

*Development of Affordable Rental Housing
and Related Facilities for the Elderly
Hale Mahaolu Ehiku Project*

\$300,000

Affordable housing for the elderly is critically needed in Hawaii. This appropriation would complete the construction of the Hale Mahaolu Ehiku Elderly project, the first affordable elderly housing facility in South Maui. The facility will include an adult day-care center, senior center, and an adult residential care home that will allow the residents to age within familiar surroundings. The facility will also include 112 one-bedroom rental units, one three-bedroom manager's unit, and administrative offices. The adult day-care center will provide a social daytime activity program for adults who are physically and mentally challenged, individuals who are frail or elderly, and individuals diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia.

*Maui Economic Development Board Enterprise Building
Repair and Equipment Purchase Project*

\$300,000

The Maui Economic Development Board Enterprise Building will expand Maui's economic diversification capacity and incubator space for dual-use technology companies. This earmark would be used by Maui Economic Development Board to help complete the building. The space in this building has already been fully committed.

Milolii and Hookena Community Centers Construction Project

\$300,000

Milolii and Hookena are the last remaining traditional fishing villages in Hawaii. Both communities are interested in having community centers. The \$300,000 would begin the planning process for these centers that will provide structured activities in which youths will be able to learn canoeing, fishing, marine stewardship, and the Native Hawaiian language from village elders. Computer classes, summer school, and after-school tutoring could also be offered at the center.

YMCA of Kauai Facility Construction Project

\$300,000

This appropriation would be used to complete the construction of a YMCA facility on the Island of Kauai. The new facility will include a childcare center, gymnasium, wellness center, locker rooms, and batting cages.

Caregiver and Disability Resource Center Project

\$200,000

This appropriation would be used by the County of Hawaii to renovate a Caregiver and Disability Resource Center to bring current facilities into ADA compliance. The Center is a one-stop access point that offers caregivers, seniors, and the disabled community needed information related to aging and elder healthcare, counseling, training, and emotional support, and respite from caregiving.

Lanai Youth Center

Service Expansion Project

\$200,000

Lanai has limited venues for constructive and supervised activities for its approximately 670 youths. The Lanai Youth Center is the only organization on the island that offers free organized activities for youths six days a week. It initially operated as a drop-in center, but has now expanded to offer drug- and alcohol-prevention programs for youths and parents, in addition to after-school classes for homework assistance, computers, cooking, health and fitness, cultural education, sewing, ceramics, archery, golf, and soccer. The Youth Center currently operates from a double-wide trailer that accommodates only 20 youths at a time; as a result, many youths have been turned away. This appropriation would be used by the Lanai Youth Center to purchase and install additional double-wide trailers so that the Youth Center may serve more children and teens.

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